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September 19, 2003

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
Draft Environmental Impact Report
Building 49 Project
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

To: Responsible agencies, interested organizations, and members of the public

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL, or Berkeley Lab) has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Building 49 project. The project would construct and operate an approximately 65,000 square foot office building on the Berkeley Lab site. As a “third party” building, the proposed project would be built and owned by a private developer on land leased from the University of California; the building would then be leased back to the University for use by LBNL. The project would provide much needed office space to Berkeley Lab to help alleviate—or “decompress”—current overcrowded working conditions elsewhere at the site. As such, the proposed project would not increase Berkeley Lab’s population and thereby would not generate new traffic trips. The building would be used exclusively for office and meeting space and would include no laboratory uses or facilities.

The Draft EIR is prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the University of California’s guidelines on implementing CEQA. It follows a revised Notice of Preparation (NOP) and public scoping process that extended from August 6, 2003 to September 5, 2003. (An initial scoping process was undertaken between June 16, 2003 and July 18, 2003. The project was subsequently altered to exclude construction of an ancillary parking lot, so the NOP was revised and reissued for further review and scoping). The EIR includes a description of the proposed project and of the project’s environmental setting, along with an analysis of environmental impacts. Where impacts would be potentially significant, mitigation measures are identified to reduce those impacts to below significant levels. In addition, the EIR contains an analysis of several project alternatives, cumulative impacts, and other CEQA considerations.

This Draft EIR will be circulated for a 45-day review and comment by responsible agencies as well as by other interested agencies and the public. The comment period begins on September 19, 2003 and will end on November 3, 2003. A public hearing to collect verbal comments will be held during that period. LBNL will then prepare a Final EIR and mitigation monitoring program along with responses to all comments received during the comment period for submission to The Regents of the University of California for review and a decision. It is anticipated at this time that these documents will be presented for Regents’ consideration at the December 2003 – January 2004 Regents’ meeting.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Building 49 Project EIR—Notice of Availability
September 19, 2003

An electronic version of the Draft EIR is available on-line on Berkeley Lab's website at:
<http://www.lbl.gov/Community/env-rev-docs.html>. Copies are also available for review at:

Berkeley Public Library
2090 Kittredge Street,
2nd Floor Reference Desk
Berkeley, California 94704
(510) 981-6100

Please send to LBNL any comments on the Building 49 EIR by November 3, 2003 to be considered in the Final EIR and response to comments document. Comments should be addressed to:

Jeff Philliber
Environmental Planning Coordinator
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road, MS 90K
Berkeley, CA 94720

You may also send comments via e-mail to: JGPhilliber@lbl.gov. Also, comments may be received orally at the **public hearing to be held on October 20, 2003 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm** at the following address:

North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue
Berkeley, California

Berkeley Lab is excited about this project and the benefits it could bring to the Lab's employees and working environment. We look forward to your interest in this project and your involvement with the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Laura Chen, Chief
LBNL Facilities Planning

Enclosure: Building 49 Draft EIR

CC: State Agencies

State Clearinghouse
CA Air Resources Board, Dr. Alan C. Lloyd
CA Department of Fish and Game, Robert C. Hight, Director
CA Department of Health Services, Radiological Health Branch, Mr. Edgar Bailey, Chief, et. al.
CA Department of Water Resources, David Kennedy, Director
CA Environmental Protection Agency, Winston Hickox, Secretary, et. al.
CA EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control, Sal Ciriello et. al.,
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Mr. Lawrence Kolb, Executive, et. al.
CA Resources Agency, Ms. Mary D. Nichols, Secretary
CA State Water Resources Control Board, Ms. Heidi Temko, et. al.
CalTrans, Gary Adams, Chief, et. al.

Federal Agencies

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Mr. Michael Bandrowski, et. al.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Field Office, Wayne White, Supervisor,
U.S. Department of Energy, Berkeley Site Office, Mr. Richard Nolan
U.S. Department of Energy, NEPA Compliance Officer, Janet M. Neville
U.S. Department of Energy, Mr. Roger Little

Regional/County Agencies

Alameda County Planning Department, James Sorenson, Director, et. al.
Association of Bay Area Governments, Eugene Leong, et. al.
Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Brian Bateman, et. al.
Contra Costa County Department of Health Services, Andy Parsons
East Bay Municipal Utilities District, Dennis Diemer, General Manager, et. al.
East Bay Regional Park District, Pat O'Brien, General Manager, et. al.
Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Division, Keith Lichten, et. al.

City of Berkeley

Berkeley City Clerk, Ms. Sherry M. Kelly
Berkeley City Manager's Office, Mr. Weldon Rucker, et. al.
City of Berkeley, City Attorney's Office, Manuela Albuquerque
City of Berkeley, Councilmember Betty Olds' Office
City of Berkeley, Councilmember Gordon Wozniak
City of Berkeley, Department of Planning, Dan Marks, et. al.
City of Berkeley, Office of the Mayor
City of Berkeley, Toxics Management Division, Dr. Nabil Al-Hadithy
City of Berkeley, Peter Hilliard, Transportation Manager

City of Oakland

City of Oakland, District 1, Jane Brunner, Councilmember
City of Oakland, Planning and Zoning Division, Leslie Gould, Director
Oakland City Clerk's Office, Ceda Floyd

Oakland Office of the City Manager

University of California

UCOP, Budget and University Relations, Bruce Darling, Vice-President
UCOP, Laboratory Administration, Howard Hatayama, Sr. VP
UCOP Office of General Counsel, Alan Waltner
UCOP Office of Planning, Design, & Construction, John Zimmermann, et. al.

UC Berkeley

Lawrence Hall of Science, Elizabeth Stage, Director
Physical and Environmental Planning, Tom Lollini, Director, et. al
UC Berkeley, Chancellor's Adv. Committee on Strawberry Creek, G. Mathias Kondolf
UC Berkeley, EH&S Division, Karl Hans
UC Berkeley, Exec. Vice Chancellor, Paul Gray
UC Berkeley, Office of Community Relations, Irene Hegarty, Director
UC Berkeley, Vice Chancellor Horace Mitchell et. al., Business and Administrative Services
UC Botanical Garden, Jennifer Meux White

Organizations

Berkeley Association of Realtors, Donald Clark, Executive Director
Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Rachel Rupert
Campus Parnassus Neighborhood Association, Eric Arens
Committee to Minimize Toxic Waste, Pam Sihvola, Co-Chair, et. al.
Community Environmental Advisory Commission, Sara MacKusick
Council of Neighborhood Associations, Marie Bowman, President
Euclid-LeConte Neighbors, Jim Sharp
League of Women Voters, Nancy Bickel, President, et. al.
Nyingma Institute, Abby Blum
Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Joseph Haraburda
Panoramic Neighborhood Association, Janice Thomas, President
Urban Creeks Council, Carol Schemmerling

Individuals and Neighbors

(Various)